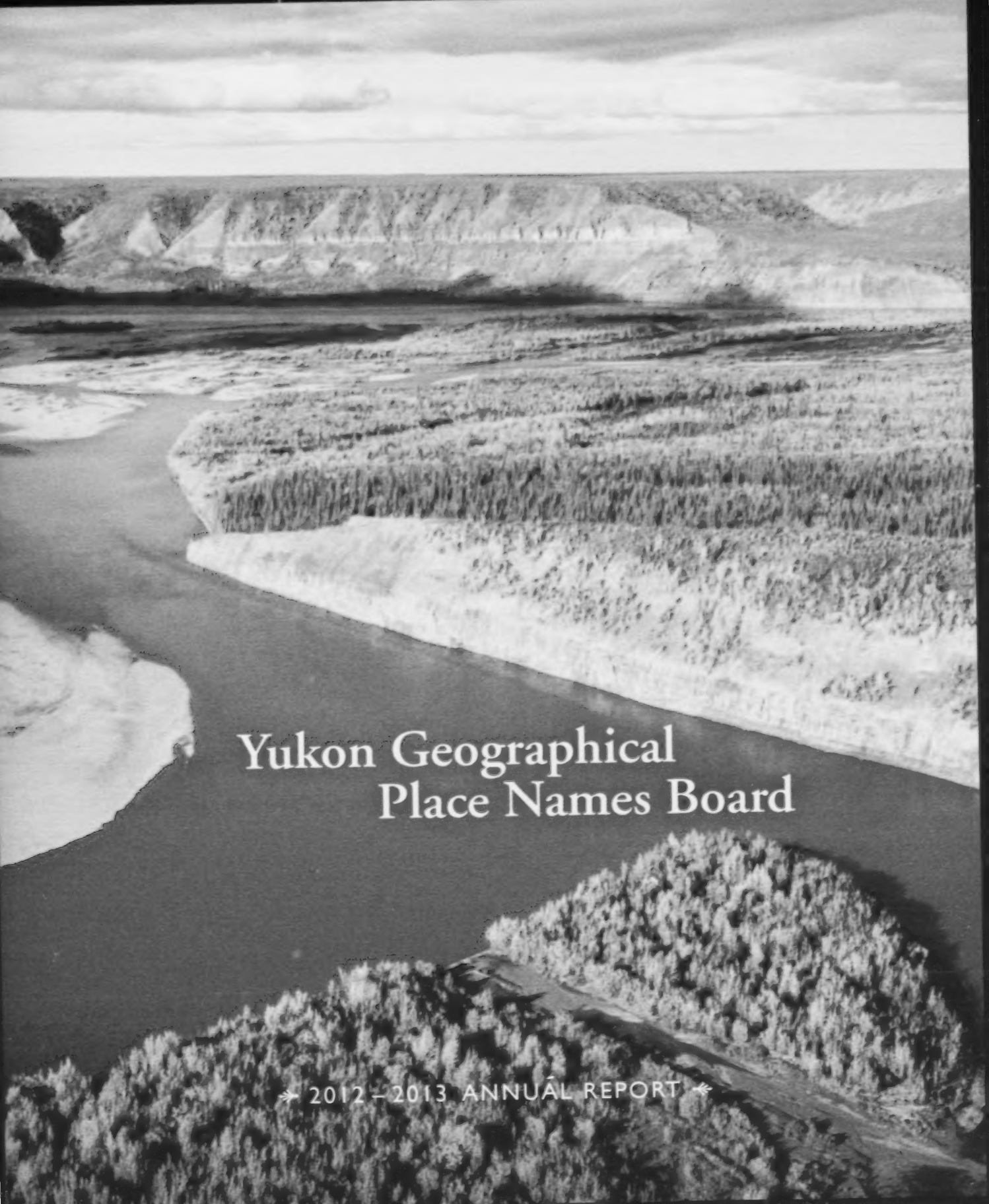


Yukon Geographical Place Names Board

2012 – 2013 ANNUAL REPORT

The names of places reflect Yukon's diverse culture, history, and landscape. Names such as Aishihik, Kusuwa and Tuchitua are just a few of the native names found on a modern map of the Yukon. Yukon First Nations named rivers, mountains, lakes and landmarks long before the first non-native explorers and settlers arrived in the territory. Names such as Gyò Cho Chú (Big Salmon River) tell where animals and fish are plentiful. Other names, such as Thechäl Män (Sekulman Lake), 'Stone Scraper for Hides' describe artifacts, people and events. Today's Yukon First Nations still remember these names and are working to record them for future generations.

Beginning in the nineteenth century, explorers, fur traders, and prospectors came to the Yukon to trade with native people, search for gold, and explore the vast landscape, giving their own names to the land. The Danish explorer Vitus Bering was the first non-native to name a geographical feature in northwest America. Bering had entered the newly formed navy of the Russian tsar Peter the Great and in 1724 was appointed to conduct an expedition to explore the water routes between Siberia and North America. In 1741, Bering named an island lying off the coast in the proximity of a very prominent mountain. He anchored near the island on St. Elias' feast day and named the island for the saint. The dominant mountain in question was, later in the eighteenth century, given the name of the island and Mount St. Elias became one of several peaks that define the border between Canada's Yukon and the American State of Alaska.

While Bering and explorers to follow gave names to geographical features without asking the local names for places, others, such as geologist George Dawson and the Yukon's first Commissioner, William Ogilvie, recorded many native names during their years in the Yukon, including the Yuszyu and Tatchun Rivers in central Yukon.

Many of the official names on the Yukon map today were given by non-native settlers who came to the Yukon during the Gold Rush period of the 1890s. In the area around Dawson City, Allgold, Bonanza, Eureka, and Nogold recall the successes - and failures - of the miners who came to the territory during the Klondike Gold Rush. Names such as Carcross (from Caribou Crossing), Fox Lake, and Eagle's Nest Bluff, testify to the richness of Yukon's wildlife resources. Other places, such as Five Finger Rapids on the Yukon River, Blackstone Mountain, and White River, were named for the shape, colour, and form of the land and water itself. One of the best known names of this type is Whitehorse, which took its name from the White Horse Rapids, whose foamy white crests reminded early prospectors of horses' manes. Another legend tells of a chief 's white horse drowning there.

(front and back cover) View along the Peel River, east of its junction with the Bonnet Plume River. This region comprises some of the traditional homeland of the Teetl'it Gwich'in people, who now live downstream in Ft. McPherson, NWT. The Peel River is known in the Gwich'in language as Teetl'it Gwinjik, 'headwaters river'.

(left) The rock formation on the far side of the Peel River is known in Gwich'in as Ekèhtsii Va'an, 'Ekèhtsii's Den'. It is the subject of a Gwich'in legend about a man of long ago who created the opening in the rock with his super-human powers.

The Origin of the *Yukon Geographical Place Names Board*

In 1897, Canada established the *Geographic Board of Canada* whose mandate was to approve official place names across the country. Interestingly, one of the motivations for establishing this board came from events happening in the Yukon, from the discovery of gold in the Klondike. Today, the successor to this Board is known as the *Geographical Names Board of Canada* (GNBC) which until recently was referred to as the *Canadian Permanent Committee on Geographical Names* (CPCGN). The GNBC is made up of 23 members representing the provinces and territories, as well as federal departments that deal with surveying, mapping, translation, archives, parks, and native affairs.

In 1986, the responsibility for naming geographical features in the Yukon was transferred from the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs to the Government of Yukon, putting geographical naming in the hands of Yukon residents for the first time. As part of this transfer the Government of Yukon established the *Yukon Geographical Names Board* (YGNB) in 1987 to undertake the job of researching and approving geographical names.

In 1995, under the *Umbrella Final Agreement*, the *Yukon Geographical Names Board* was replaced by the *Yukon Geographical Place Names Board* (YGPNB).

The Board's Responsibilities

The *Yukon Geographical Place Names Board* (YGPNB) is constituted under the *Umbrella Final Agreement* (UFA), signed by the Council of Yukon First Nations (CYFN), the Yukon Government and the Government of Canada. The Board's primary function is to consider and recommend the naming or renaming of places or features located within the Yukon with special reference to Chapter 13, Section 11 of the UFA. The Board's mandate does not include the naming or renaming of features or sites within municipal boundaries or of transportation corridors (highways and bridges).

Board Members

The Board is comprised of six Yukoners who share a common interest in developing place name policies that address all Yukoners. Three members are nominated by the Yukon Government and three by the Council of Yukon First Nations, and all serve three-year terms.

Visiting Teslin Tlingit Council representatives at a Board meeting held at the Yukon Native Language Centre. Linda Sidney (TTC), Bessie Cooley (YGPNB), Aggie Johnston (TTC), Jane Smarch (TTC), and YNLC's Josephine Holloway.

Member Profiles 2012-2013

CO-CHAIRS:

TRACY RISPIN, CO-CHAIR: Ms. Rispin was first appointed to the Board in 2007. She is a member of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation in Old Crow, where she currently serves as VGFN Director of Education. She is an accomplished producer of films with historical and cultural themes. She maintains a deep interest in the language and lifeways of the Gwich'in people and brings a wide range of knowledge and experience to her position on the Board.

JOHN RITTER, CO-CHAIR: Mr. Ritter has served the Board for four consecutive terms. He is also founding Director of the Yukon Native Language Centre. As a linguist, he has worked with all Yukon languages and contributes to the spelling and pronunciation of native place names. Also crucial to the place name application process is his ability to provide the Board with translation services during consultation periods held with native elders.

MEMBERS:

MONTY ALFORD: Mr. Alford is a retired federal hydrographer who has lived in the Yukon for over 50 years. Mr. Alford was first appointed to the Board in 2003. With mountaineering as his avocation, he is familiar not only with the waterways of the Yukon but also with many of the mountain ranges. This extensive knowledge of Yukon geography is a great asset to the Board. Mr. Alford is the author of five books. He is a Member of the Order of Canada and a holder of the Queen's Medal.

RON CHAMBERS: Mr. Chambers is of Southern Tutchone, Tlingit and Scottish ancestry. He was born and raised in the Kluane area but spent his high school years in Haines, Alaska, and northern California. After graduation, he pursued his artistic interests at SAIT in Calgary. He was a Park Warden in Jasper and Kluane parks for 22 years before retiring to start his own guiding business. Ron has been a member of many boards over the years and was Deputy Chief of Champagne and Aishihik First Nations. He currently sits on the Yukon Heritage Resources Board and Yukon River Salmon Subcommittee.

BESSIE COOLEY: Ms. Cooley is a fluent speaker of the Tlingit language and served for many years as the Tlingit Language Instructor at the Teslin School. At Yukon College she completed the Certificate and Diploma Courses for Native Language Instructors, and earned both an Associate of Applied Science degree in Native Language Education and a Bachelor of Arts degree in Native Studies at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. In retirement Bessie continues to serve as a Tlingit language resource person and mentor in her home community of Teslin.

POLLY THORP: Ms. Thorp was first appointed to the Board in 2004. She has lived in the north for more than 25 years, and she moved to Whitehorse in 2003. She has a degree in Native Studies from Trent University and a diploma from Yukon College. This education has helped her gain a solid understanding of northern cultures and issues. She is an avid hiker, trail runner and cross-country skier. She brings to the Board a keen interest in Yukon and northern landscape, history and culture.

SUPPORT PERSONNEL:

DEANA LEMKE: Ms. Lemke was first contracted by the Board during the 2006-2007 fiscal year to provide administrative and secretariat support for its activities. She is the proprietor of Beyond Words Business Services and has extensive experience in board functioning and financial management.

GARRY NJOOTLI: Mr. Njootli was appointed Yukon Toponymist in 2003. He is responsible for reviewing place-name submissions sent to the Government of Yukon's Heritage Resources Unit. He ensures they are complete and meet basic criteria before being forwarded to the Yukon Geographical Place Names Board for consideration. He also serves as a non-voting member of the Board. Mr. Njootli is a member of the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation (Old Crow, Yukon).

The Eagle River in northern Yukon is known in Gwich'in as Ezhin Njik and Ch'ashin Njik, both meaning 'eagle(s) river'. The Richardson Mountains in the background are known as Teetl'it Dahaa' in Gwich'in, 'mountains associated with Teetl'it (Gwinjik)', i.e., the mountains paired with Peel River and the upper Peel watershed.

Yukon's Place Name Review Process

Initially, place name applications are submitted to the Yukon Government's *Heritage Resources Unit*, a component of the Cultural Services Branch within the Department of Tourism & Culture.

Once place name applications have been received by the Yukon Government, the Yukon Toponymist is assigned with the task of establishing correct locations of proposed place name sites, ensuring that the correct spellings have been recorded on applications and verifying the reasons for place name requests. This helps to ensure that the proposed place name features are accurately located by latitude and longitude and that place names' meaning, spelling and cultural significance have been properly documented. Once the information provided on applications has been confirmed by Yukon Government staff, the applications are forwarded to the Board for review and consideration in the naming or renaming process. If the applications are considered to have merit, they are recommended to the Minister of Tourism & Culture for approval.

Processing place name applications in a timely manner is a priority of the Board. However, the speed with which place name applications are processed is dependent on a number of factors that include:

- completeness of the applications when initially submitted to the Heritage Resources Unit;
- whether the place name sites are on First Nation traditional or settlement lands, or on federal or territorial lands;
- whether the sites identified are located within parks;
- whether the locations of the sites have been accurately determined;
- whether the historical or cultural backgrounds have been given.

The status of individual place name applications is tracked by means of a *Geographical Place Names Application Process Flow Sheet* (see Figure 1 on page 11).

Umbrella Final Agreement direction to the Board

The *Umbrella Final Agreement* directs the Board in its review of place name applications as follows:

- Section 13.11.2: "When considering the naming or renaming of places or features located within the Traditional Territory of a Yukon First Nation, or when acting with a federal agency where joint jurisdiction over the naming of the place or feature exists, the *Yukon Geographical Place Names Board* shall consult with that Yukon First Nation or federal agency."
- Section 13.11.3: "A Yukon First Nation may name or rename places or geographical features on Settlement Land and such place names shall be deemed to be approved by the *Yukon Geographical Place Names Board*."
- Section 13.11.4: "Traditional aboriginal place names shall be included, to the extent practicable and in accordance with map production specifications of Canada, on revised maps of the National Topographic Series."

Board member Bessie Cooley providing the spelling and pronunciation of Tlingit place names submitted for YGPNB review.

Assessment Criteria for Place Name Applications

Under the established review process, place name applications submitted are first reviewed by the Yukon Toponymist who confirms each application's accuracy and completeness. The Yukon Toponymist then forwards the application to the Board.

The Board uses the following guidelines to assess applications:

1. First priority shall be given to names with long-standing local usage by the general public, particularly indigenous names in the local native language.

2. Names of rivers, lakes, creeks, and other physical features shall be used for the entire feature. For example, the Yukon River has one name for its entire length, although it is visible from many locations such as Whitehorse, Carmacks, Ft. Selkirk and Dawson City.

3. Proposals to name a place or geographical feature after a specific person shall show that the person to be commemorated has contributed significantly to the area where the feature is located. In most cases, personal names may be given to geographical features only after the person's death.

4. When proposing names for previously unnamed features, those for which no local names exist, preference shall be given to names from native languages, names that describe the feature, names associated with historical events, and the names of people who have made an important contribution to the area where the place name is proposed.

5. Names shall be recognizable words or acceptable combinations of words, and shall be in good taste. Names that are discriminatory or derogatory from the point of view of race, gender, colour, religion or political affiliation shall not be accepted.

6. The spelling and accenting of names shall agree with the rules of the language in which they were written.

7. The Board has no jurisdiction over the assignment of names within municipalities, parks, territorial divisions, or other legal bodies that have been created by, or result from, legislation. Proposals for name changes within a national park are subject to federal review and approval. When geographical features are wholly or partly located within a national park, names and name changes proposals are to be referred directly to the Geographic Names Board of Canada (GNBC).

A view along the Peel River between the Snake and Bonnet Plume Rivers.

Summary of Board Activities During 2012-2013 Fiscal Period

The Yukon Geographical Place Names Board carried out a variety of tasks during the 2012-2013 fiscal year:

a) Board Meetings

The Board held meetings in Whitehorse on May 11, 2012 and on January 17 and March 1, 2013, with all meetings taking place in the Yukon Native Language Centre library at Yukon College. The YNLC setting is especially conducive to the conduct of Board business, with ample space, computer and sound recording resources, as well as an extensive reference library of toponymic and historical materials. YNLC staff often provide helpful technical assistance to the meetings.

b) National Meeting

The Geographic Names Board of Canada holds its national meeting in various regions of the country on a rotating basis. In September 2012, it met in Quebec City, PQ. YGPNB members Polly Thorp and Tracy Rispin attended this important meeting as observers. In her subsequent report to the Board, Co-Chair Rispin confirmed the value of observing the deliberations of the national Board and noted that the Yukon representative, Mr. Jeff Hunston, publicly acknowledged the on-going work of YGPNB.

c) Board Membership

In September 2012, Ms. Bessie Cooley was officially appointed to the Board by the Minister of Tourism. Her appointment filled the vacancy created by the passing of her brother, Robert Lee Jackson, earlier in the year. It also gave the Board a full complement of six members, of whom half are nominated by CYFN and half by Government of Yukon. Ms. Cooley is a fluent speaker of the Tlingit language and served for many years as the Tlingit Language Instructor at the Teslin School. Her linguistic and cultural expertise and background will be of great assistance to YGPNB.

d) Review of Place Name Applications

At its meeting held on January 17, 2013, the Board reviewed approximately twenty place names applications submitted by the Teslin Tlingit Council. In attendance to assist the Board in its deliberations were Ms. Linda Sidney (TTC staff member) and TTC Elders Jane Smarch and Aggie Johnston. Newly appointed Board member Bessie Cooley also assisted with spellings of the Tlingit names in both the Coastal and Interior Tlingit writing systems. Following the review with the visiting Elders, the Board made tentative decisions on which geographic features were to be recommended for official or alternate name status. Mr. Garry Njootli (YG Toponymist) and Board Co-Chair John Ritter met subsequently to review the linguistic and spelling issues raised in the course of Board review. In its meeting held on March 1, 2013, the Board confirmed all its recommendations to be submitted to the Minister of Tourism.

e) Website

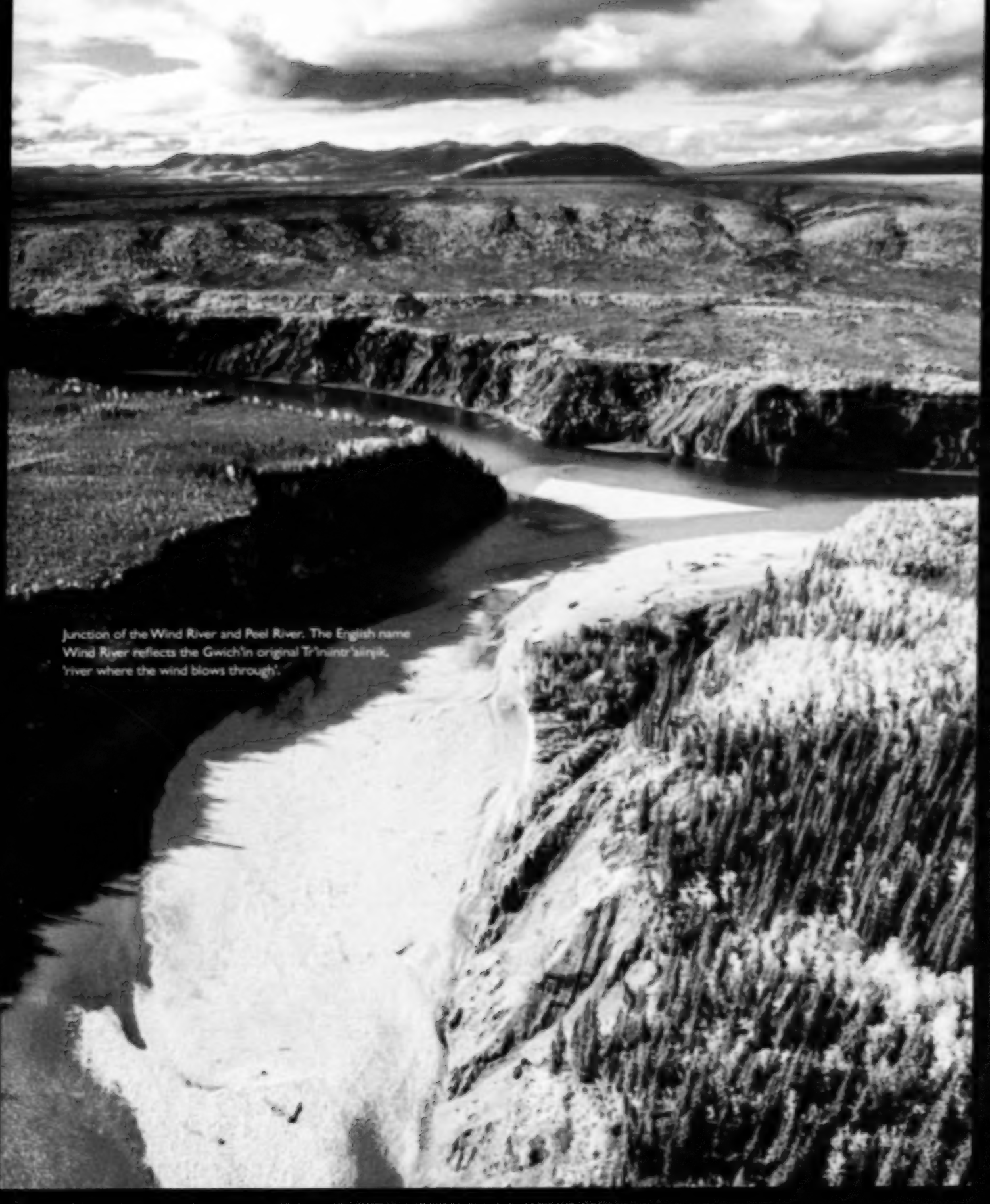
During 2012-2013 the Board Website, www.yukonplacenames.ca, was the focus of remedial work to improve the display of First Nation names with special symbols and diacritics.

f) Photo Documentation

The Board authorized aerial photo documentation which took place in September, 2012. The flight itinerary was determined in advance by YGPNB Co-Chair John Ritter, photographer Wayne Towriss, and Yukon Toponymist Garry Njootli. The documentation focused on the Peel River region with special emphasis on areas referenced in place names submissions reviewed by the Board in February 2012.

The Board aims to compile a complete set of information for each place name it recommends for approval by the Minister, including pronunciation, meaning and historical/cultural significance, as well as visual documentation wherever possible.

Junction of Trail River and Peel River. Trail River is known locally as 'Trail Creek'. This location is known in Gwich'in as Tr'atr'aatąii Chik, 'mouth of the creek where the trail comes out (to Peel River)'.



Junction of the Wind River and Peel River. The English name Wind River reflects the Gwich'in original Tr'inintr'aiinjik, 'river where the wind blows through'.

Place Names Documentation Project

Since 1996, the Yukon Geographical Place Names Board and the Yukon Native Language Centre have jointly conducted a place name photo documentation project that visually records Yukon sites and features. The landscape images in this report are examples of the cost-shared documentation.

All place name photos in this report were taken by Wayne Towriss for the Yukon Native Language Centre and the Yukon Geographical Place Names Board.

The Board's Web Site

The *Yukon Geographical Place Names Board* web site was launched in January of 2005.

Board members believe the web site is a useful tool for informing the public about Yukon's rich culture and history that is reflected in the place names. As well, the Board believes the web site is an excellent vehicle for describing processes and criteria used to evaluate place name applications.

Additionally, the web site offers viewers the opportunity to observe photographs of Yukon features and to listen to sound files of First Nation elders pronouncing the names of these features in their own language. For example, photographs of *Jeḵnaltʼeda* (Alligator Lake) and *Nänädhäʼ* (Old Woman Rock) are illustrated, and sound files of these names in Southern Tutchone and Hän are featured.

To view the Board's web site go to: **www.yukonplacenames.ca**

YGPNB 2012 - 2013

Over the next year the Board will continue to review place name applications. As part of this process, the Board will consult regularly with the Yukon Toponymist to ensure that all applications received are complete and accurate. The Board will also continue to consult with applicants, First Nations, language experts and the public as required to confirm that all documentation is correct before applications are decided. The approved applications will be forwarded to the Minister, who then will make the final decision based on the Board's recommendation.

The Board will continue to work with governments to ensure that approved place name features are included in accordance with map production specifications of Canada on revised maps of the National Topographic Series.

YUKON PLACE NAME INFORMATION

Information about Yukon and other Canadian place names can be obtained by consulting the Geographic Names Board of Canada database at:

GEO NAMES
Natural Resources Canada
Room 634-615 Booth Street
Ottawa, Ontario
Canada K1A 0E9

www.geonames.nrcan.gc.ca

For information about the Yukon Geographical Place Names process or to obtain a status report on an application submitted contact:

YUKON TOPONYMIST
Cultural Services Branch
Heritage Resources Unit (L-1)
P.O. Box 2703
Whitehorse, Yukon
Canada Y1A 2C6

Telephone: (867) 667-3099
Toll-free: (800) 661-0408 (ext. 3099)
Fax: (867) 393-6456

www.yukonheritage.com

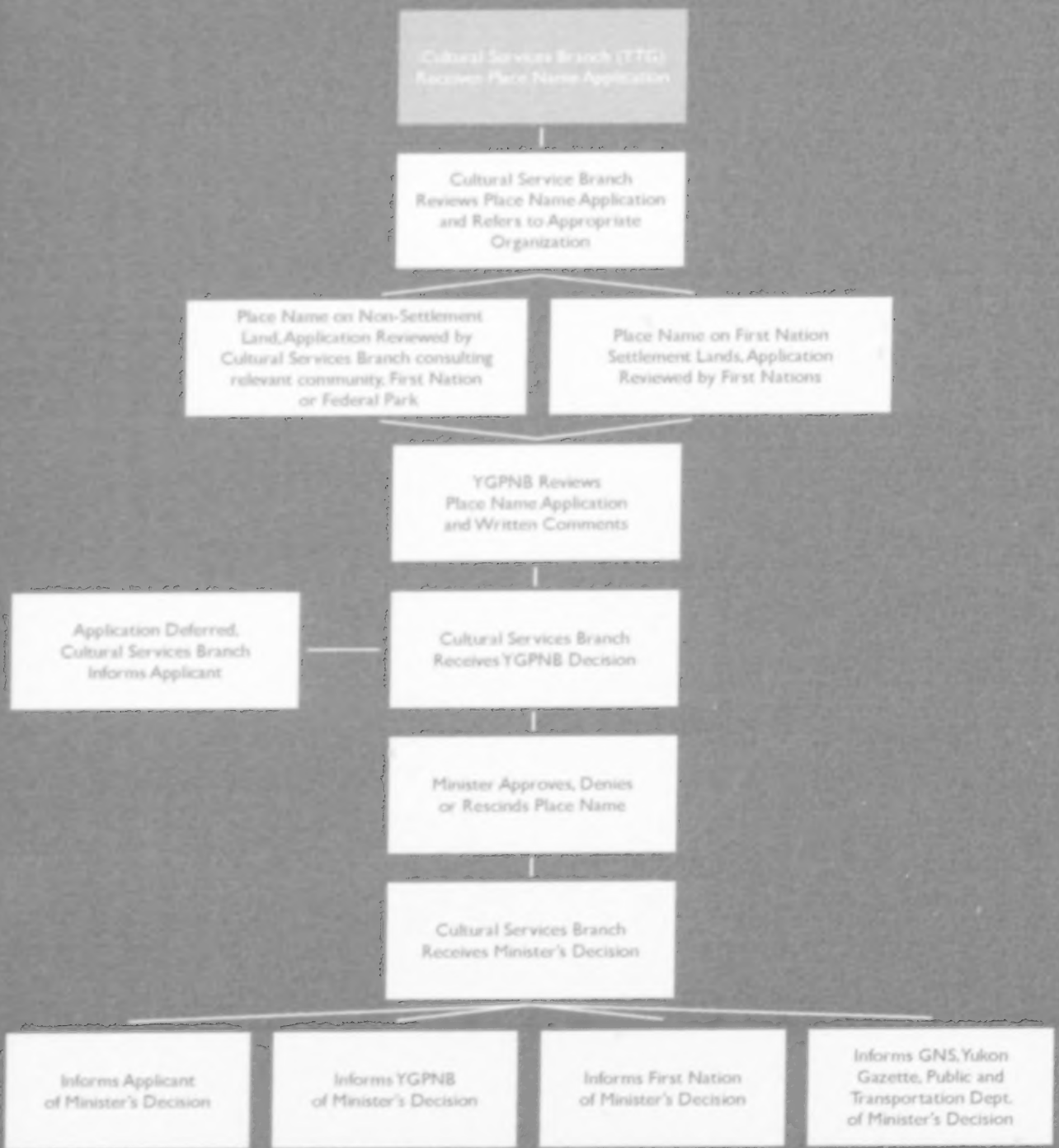
For additional information about the activities and mandate of the *Yukon Geographical Place Names Board* please contact:

SECRETARIAT
Yukon Geographical Place Names Board
P.O. Box 31164
Whitehorse, Yukon
Canada Y1A 5P7

Telephone: (867) 667-7500
Fax: (867) 393-3904
Email: yukonplacenames@yknet.ca

www.yukonplacenames.ca

FIGURE 1: GEOGRAPHICAL PLACE NAMES APPLICATION PROCESS FLOW SHEET


Cultural Services Branch (YTG) Receives Place Name Application
Cultural Service Branch Reviews Place Name Application and Refers to Appropriate Organization
Place Name on Non-Settlement Land, Application Reviewed by Cultural Services Branch consulting relevant community, First Nation or Federal Park
Place Name on First Nation Settlement Lands, Application Reviewed by First Nations
YGPNB Reviews Place Name Application and Written Comments
Application Deferred, Cultural Services Branch Informs Applicant
Cultural Services Branch Receives YGPNB Decision
Minister Approves, Denies or Rescinds Place Name
Cultural Services Branch Receives Minister's Decision
Informs Applicant of Minister's Decision
Informs YGPNB of Minister's Decision
Informs First Nation of Minister's Decision
Informs GNS, Yukon Gazette, Public and Transportation Dept. of Minister's Decision

MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY STATEMENT

The management of Yukon Geographical Place Names Board is responsible for preparing the financial statements, the notes to the financial statements and other financial information contained in this annual report.

Management prepares the financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations. The financial statements are considered by management to present fairly the board's financial position and results of operations.

Management, in fulfilling its responsibilities, has developed and maintains a system of internal accounting controls designed to provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded from loss or unauthorized use, and that the records are reliable for preparing the financial statements.

The financial statements have been reported on by M. McKay & Associates Ltd., Certified General Accountants, the board's auditors. Their report outlines the scope of their examination and their opinion on the financial statements.

Chairperson

July 31, 2013

M. McKay & Associates Ltd.
Certified General Accountants

M. McKay & Associates Ltd.
Certified General Accountants

204-208 A Main Street
Whitehorse, Y.T. Y1A 2A9
Phone: (867) 633-5434
Fax: (867) 633-5440

INDEPENDENT AUDITORS' REPORT

To the Members of Yukon Geographical Place Names Board

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of Yukon Geographical Place Names Board, which comprise the statement of financial position as at March 31, 2013, and the statements of operations and changes in net assets and cash flows for the year then ended, and a summary of significant accounting policies and other explanatory information.

Management's responsibility for the financial statements
Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of these financial statements in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

Auditors' responsibility
Our responsibility is to express an opinion on these financial statements based on our audit. We conducted our audit in accordance with Canadian generally accepted auditing standards. Those standards require that we comply with ethical requirements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgment, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the board's preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the board's internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Opinion
In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Yukon Geographical Place Names Board as at March 31, 2013, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with Canadian accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations.

M. McKay & Associates

M. McKay & Associates Ltd.
Certified General Accountants

Whitehorse, Yukon
July 31, 2013

YUKON GEOGRAPHICAL PLACE NAMES BOARD
STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS AND CHANGES IN NET ASSETS
For the year ended March 31, 2013

	2013	2012
REVENUES		
Yukon Government Transfer	$ 71,740	$ 70,652
Interest	685	546
	72,425	71,198
EXPENSES		
Secretariat	21,525	21,833
Honoraria	17,254	16,375
Travel	11,974	8,552
Documentation	11,820	4,791
Annual report	4,938	7,459
Professional fees	4,500	4,099
Rent	4,226	4,525
Communications and website	1,690	1,204
Office and general	592	596
Meetings	104	120
Bank charges	94	225
Conferences and seminars	-	1,000
Training	-	308
	78,717	71,087
(DEFICIENCY) EXCESS OF REVENUES OVER EXPENSES	(6,292)	111
Net assets, beginning of year	135,296	135,185
Net assets, end of year	$ 129,004	$ 135,296

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

M. McKay & Associates Ltd.
Certified General Accountants

YUKON GEOGRAPHICAL PLACE NAMES BOARD
STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
March 31, 2013

	2013	2012	2012 opening
ASSETS			
CURRENT			
Cash	$ 132,309	$ 137,369	$ 137,735
Prepaid expenses	196	840	-
GST receivable	1,028	1,057	1,400
	133,533	139,266	139,135
OFFICE FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT (note 4)	5,665	7,993	8,365
	$ 139,198	$ 147,259	$ 147,500
LIABILITIES			
CURRENT			
Accounts payable and accrued liabilities	$ 4,529	$ 3,970	$ 3,950
NET ASSETS			
Investment in capital assets	5,665	7,993	8,365
Unrestricted net assets	129,004	135,296	135,185
	134,669	143,289	143,550
	$ 139,198	$ 147,259	$ 147,500

Approved on behalf of the Board:

_____ Chairperson

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

M. McKay & Associates Ltd.
Certified General Accountants

YUKON GEOGRAPHICAL PLACE NAMES BOARD
STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
For the year ended March 31, 2013

	2013	2012
OPERATING ACTIVITIES		
Government transfer	$ 71,740	$ 70,652
Interest received	685	546
Cash paid to suppliers and board honoraria	(77,485)	(71,564)
NET DECREASE IN CASH	(5,060)	(366)
CASH, beginning of year	137,369	137,735
CASH, end of year	$ 132,309	$ 137,369

See accompanying notes to the financial statements

M. McKay & Associates Ltd.
Certified General Accountants

The Peel River Canyon is located downstream from the mouth of the Bonnet Plume River. During high water conditions, the current through the Canyon is very dangerous. In days past, Teetl'it Gwich'in people traveled through this Canyon in springtime, using skin boats to make their way down the Peel to Ft. McPherson and the Mackenzie Delta. The Canyon is known as Chuu Tr'idaodiich'uu, 'unruly, temperamental waters', in the Gwich'in language.

yukonplacenames.ca